

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

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L-03 AID-05 CU-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /057 W

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O 281742Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1806

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FOLLOWING TEL SENT INFO GENEVA BONN BRUSSELS LONDON  
USUN NY ON 21 APR BEING REPEATED FOR SECSTATE ACTION

DEPT PASS TO ALL ARA POSTS  
GENEVA PASS TO ILO

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, MX, PINT

SUBJECT: ORIT CONGRESS - A NEW TEAM, NEW MOOD - SAME OLD  
DEBT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY: THE NINTH ORDINARY CONGRESS OF ORIT MET IN  
CUERNAVACA APRIL 14-17 AND UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED A NEW TEAM  
OF PRINCIPLE OFFICERS, INCLUDING JUAN JOSE DEL PINO A  
VENEZUELAN AS GENERAL SECRETARY, ALFONSO SANCHEZ  
MADARIAGA OF MEXICO AS PRESIDENT AND AIFLD/AFL-CIO  
MICHAEL VERDU AS TREASURER. AMONG THE RESOLUTIONS  
APPROVED WERE SEVERAL DESIGNED TO IMPROVE ORIT'S CHRONIC  
FINANCIAL PROBLEMS INCLUDING ONE WHICH WILL PERMIT ORIT  
TO RECEIVE AID/AIFLD FUNDS AS DO SOME ITS'S.

DESPITE SEVERAL ROUGH SPOTS AND ONE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS  
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INCIDENT THE CONGRESS ENDED IN A MOOD OF OPTIMISM AND  
SPIRIT OF COOPERATION.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

THE NINTH ORDINARY CONGRESS OF THE INTERAMERICAN REGIONAL  
ORGANIZATION OF WORKERS (ORIT) TOOK PLACE IN CUERNAVACA

APRIL 14-17. IT RESULTED IN A COMPLETE TURNOVER OF THE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS WHICH MAKE UP THE SECRETARIAT.

JUAN JOSE DEL PINO OF THE CTV OF VENEZUELA REPLACED JULIO  
ETCHEVERRY AS SECRETARY GENERAL. DEL PINO HAS SOLID  
TRADE UNION CREDENTIALS. ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE  
PETROLEUM WORKERS FEDERATION AND A FORMER CONGRESSMAN,  
HE HAS MOST RECENTLY BEEN LABOR REPRESENTATIVE ON  
PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ' HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.  
THE CTM OF MEXICO RETAINED THE OFFICE OF ORIT PRESIDENT,  
WITH ALFONSO SANCHEZ MADARIAGA REPLACING RAFAEL CAMACHO  
GUZMAN. SANCHEZ MADARIAGA IS BOTH A PAST PRESIDENT AND  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF ORIT. THE POSITION OF SECRETARY  
TREASURER, CREATED BY THE EIGHTH CONGRESS IN 1974, PASSED  
FROM JOSE ESTRADA TO MICHAEL VERDU. LIKE ESTRADA, VERDU  
HAS BEEN A COUNTRY PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE FOR FREE LABOR DEVELOPMENT.

THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ELECTED BY THE CONGRESS IS  
COMPOSED OF SIXTEEN TITULAR MEMBERS WITH ALTERNATES AS  
SHOWN BELOW. ONE EC POSITION CORRESPONDING TO THE UNITED  
MINE WORKERS HAS BEEN LEFT VACANT PENDING CLARIFICATION  
OF THE UMW'S STATUS IN ORIT. TITULAR COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE  
VICE PRESIDENTS OF ORIT. THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE MARKED  
"VP" ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ALONG  
WITH THE OFFICERS OF THE SECRETARIAT.

ORIT OFFICERS - APRIL 1977-1980

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#### SECRETARIAT

PRESIDENT: ALFONSO SANCHEZ MADARIAGA (CTM MEXICO)  
GENERAL SECRETARY: JUAN JOSE DEL PINO (CTV VENEZUELA)  
TREASURER: MICHAEL VERDU (AFL/CIO EE.UU)

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

MEMBERS	1ST ALTERNATE	2ND ALTERNATE
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JOE MORRIS, VP (CANADA)	DON MONTGOMERY	JOHN HARKER
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GEORGE MEANY, VP (USA)	LANE KIRKLAND	ANDREW C.
-	MCLELLAN	

MARTIN WARD (USA)	THOMAS GLEASON	GLENN WATTS
-------------------	----------------	-------------

FIDEL VELASQUEZ, VP (MEXICO)	RAFAEL CAMACHO GUZMAN	HILDA ANDERSON NEVAREZ
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LUIS ARMANDO GUTIERREZ ANDRES VICTOR ANIBAL SOMOZA P.  
(CA) ARTILES

PHILLIP DEAN BUTCHER, VP SIMEON GUERRA ADRIAN IGNACIO  
(PANAMA) GUERRA IRIAS  
TULIO CUEVAS, VP (SA) JOSE CHAVEZ JORGE B.  
- CHAVEZ HILDALGO

JULIO CRUZADO (USA) ARTURO JAUREGUI ITALO SAMAME

FLORENCIO CARRANZA (SA) ARNALDO O. JOSE CASADAVANT

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J. ALCEU PORTOCARRERO NICANOR FLEITAS SAMUEL BLANCO F.  
(SA)

ARIEL DEL GAUDIO (SA) J. AIRTON DOS EDMO DE ANDRADE  
- SANTOS

JOSEPH POLLYDORE, VP VACANT VACANT  
(W. INDIES)

URSULA GITTENS VACANT VACANT  
(W. INDIES)

HIPOLITO MARCANO, VP RAFAEL TEJADA MANUEL HUERTA  
(ANTILLES) ARIAS

MANUEL PENALVER CESAR OLARTE ANACLETO  
(ANTILLES) VILLARROEL

INTERNAL AUDITORS  
WILLIAM MAGUIRE  
FRANCISCO GUERRERO MENESES

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### 3. CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS

THE FIRST GENERAL SESSION IN CUERNAVACA ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 14 PRODUCED AN INCIDENT WHICH COULD HAVE EASILY BROKEN UP THE CONGRESS. ORIT PRESIDENT RAFAEL CAMACHO GUZMAN PRESIDED OVER THIS SESSION IN SUCH A HIGH HANDED MANNER AND DIRECTED OPEN INSULTS AT SEVERAL OF THE DELEGATES FROM THE SMALLER AFFILIATES, THAT 13 DELEGATIONS SUBMITTED A PETITION FOR HIS CENSURE AND REMOVAL FROM THE CHAIR ON THE FOLLOWING DAY. QUICK AND EFFECTIVE BEHIND THE SCENES PERSUASION ON THE PART OF THE U.S. DELEGATION AND ASTUTE HANDLING OF THE ISSUE BY CANADIAN CHAIRWOMAN SHIRLEY CARR, PROBABLY INFLUENCED THE MEXICAN CTM'S WITHDRAWAL OF CAMACHO AS ORIT CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT. HAD THE PETITION HIT THE FLOOR OF THE CONGRESS THE CTM WOULD HAVE DEFENDED CAMACHO POSSIBLY TO THE EXTENT OF FORMALLY REQUESTING THAT ORIT LEAVE MEXICO. CTM PRESIDENT FIDEL VELASQUEZ PRIVATELY EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE TO THE U.S. DELEGATION FOR THEIR FAST FOOTWORK. ON APRIL 16 THE CTM PRESENTED ALFONSO SANCHEZ MADARIAGA AS ITS CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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FORMER ORIT SECRETARY GENERAL ARTURO JAUREGUI MADE SOMETHING OF A COMEBACK IN THIS CONGRESS BY BEING ELECTED AS FIRST ALTERNATE TO JULIO CRUZADO OF THE PERUVIAN CTP ON THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. AT THE SAME TIME, THE COLOMBIAN CTC FAILED FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE ORIT'S FOUNDING IN 1951 TO GAIN A SEAT ON THE COUNCIL. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT A CTC REPRESENTATIVE MAY BE NAMED TO THE POST OF DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL WHICH WAS CREATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY THE EIGHTH CONGRESS. HOWEVER, THIS POST HAS SO FAR BEEN SO PURELY DECORATIVE AS TO BE FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES NON-EXISTENT.

THE CARIBBEAN AREA WAS DIVIDED IN THIS CONGRESS INTO TWO SUBREGIONS FOR PURPOSES OF REPRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL -- THE SPANISH SPEAKING ANTILLES AND ENGLISH SPEAKING WEST INDIES, INCLUDING GUYANA. ONE GOT THE DEFINITE IMPRESSION IN THE CONGRESS THAT THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN STILL FEELS, AS IT HAS FOR MANY YEARS, THAT IT IS NOT GIVEN SUFFICIENT ATTENTION IN THE ORIT FAMILY. THIS FEELING ALSO APPEARS TO BE SHARED BY CENTRAL AMERICA, ONE OF WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES CALLED FOR A CLOSER COLLABORATION IN THE FUTURE BETWEEN C.A. AND THE CARIBBEAN TO PROMOTE THEIR INTERESTS IN ORIT.

#### 4. RESOLUTIONS

TEXTS OF RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONGRESS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRADE UNION FREEDOMS, THE PANAMA CANAL, AND UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS IN THE U.S. OF MORE IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO THE FUTURE OF ORIT ITSELF WERE SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS BEARING ON ORIT ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE. ONE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZES ORIT TO ENTER INTO ARRANGEMENTS WITH AIFLD SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH AIFLD HAS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS IN THE REGION. ANOTHER URGES THE

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ICFTU TO RENEW ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ORIT. FOLLOWING THE EIGHTH ORIT CONGRESS IN 1974, THE ICFTU DRASTICALLY REDUCED ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ORIT, ALTHOUGH IT DID CONTRIBUTE \$35,000 TO THE NINTH CONGRESS AND TO THE SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH PRECEDED IT.

THE CONGRESS ALSO AUTHORIZED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTER-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY FUND, TO BE FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ORIT AFFILIATES. HOWEVER, WHILE SUCH A FUND MIGHT EVENTUALLY BECOME AN IMPORTANT ASSET TO ORIT, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT IT WILL PROVIDE ANY IMMEDIATE RELIEF FOR ORIT'S PERENNIAL FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

THE SECRETARIAT'S FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESS INDICATES THAT WHILE ORIT HAS MADE PROGRESS DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS IN PAYING OFF ITS DEBTS AND LIVING WITHIN ITS BUDGET, IT HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN EFFORTS TO GET THE MAJORITY OF ITS AFFILIATES TO PAY AFFILIATION FEES (PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTIONS), DESPITE SOLEMN PLEDGES MADE AT THE LAST CONGRESS. BY WAY OF ILLUSTRATION, OF THE TOTAL DUES PAID INTO ORIT IN CY 1976 (\$121,420), THE U.S. PAID 80.5 PERCENT, AND THE COMBINED PROPORTION PAID BY THE U.S., CANADA, AND MEXICO AMOUNTED TO 98.5 PERCENT.

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AN ESTIMATED \$35,000 A YEAR HAS BEEN LOST TO ORIT EACH YEAR BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO PAY FEES AS REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION. AT THE TIME OF THE NINTH CONGRESS, NINETEEN AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS FROM FIFTEEN COUNTRIES (OUT OF A TOTAL OF 24 ORGANIZATIONS IN 19 COUNTRIES) STILL OWED A TOTAL OF \$25,500 FOR 1976, AND WERE REQUIRED TO MAKE TOKEN PAYMENTS WHILE IN MEXICO TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE AND VOTE IN THE CONGRESS. AS THE INTERNAL AUDITORS' REPORT FOR 1976 POINTS OUT, THE "DEFICIT" OF \$54,400 IN ORIT'S SEVERANCE PAY FUND FOR EMPLOYEES "HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE ITS MOST SERIOUS LIABILITY, WITH NO APPARENT SOLUTION IN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE."

THE NINTH CONGRESS ALSO MADE A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO ITS CONSTITUTION AND SENT THEM ON TO THE ICFTU IN BRUSSELS FOR WHAT IS EXPECTED TO BE A ROUTINE APPROVAL. AMONG THESE IS ONE (ARTICLE 5) WHICH CLARIFIES THE STATUS OF THE AFL-CIO IN ORIT. EVER SINCE THE AFL-CIO PULLED OUT OF THE ICFTU IN 1968, ITS CONTINUED, DE FACTO MEMBERSHIP IN ORIT HAS BEEN A SUBJECT OF SOME DEBATE.

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5. COMMENT: THE NINTH ORIT CONGRESS MIGHT BE CHARACTERIZED AS A LOW KEY AND LOW BUDGET PERFORMANCE BY COMPARISON WITH THAT OF 1974. THERE WAS NO PRETENSE THIS TIME OF "REVITALIZATION" OF ORIT, BUT RATHER A GENERAL MOOD OF OPTIMISM AND COOPERATION FOR THE FUTURE OF ORIT. MOST OBSERVERS REGARD THE ELECTION OF JUAN JOSE DEL PINO AS SECRETARY GENERAL AS A FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF DEL PINO'S PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF THE COMMITMENT TO ORIT BY THE VENEZUELAN CTV WHICH HIS ELECTION IMPLIES. THE CTV HAS NOT BEEN ACTIVE IN ORIT NOR SUPPORTIVE FINANCIALLY OR OTHERWISE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. DEL PINO IS REPORTED TO BE SOBER,  
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INTELLIGENT, HARD WORKING AND HONEST. HE IS STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S., AND HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING A STRONG ORGANIZER AND ADMINISTRATOR (CARACAS 13822). HE CLIMAXED HIS LOW KEY CONGRESS PRESENCE WITH A SHORT WELL RECEIVED ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, PRAISING HIS PREDECESSOR AND PLEDGING HIS FULL EFFORTS TO BUILD ORIT.

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CONCERNS AMONG THE SMALLER DELEGATIONS OVER CAMACHO'S INCREDIBLE PERFORMANCE AND SOME SCATTERED CRITICISM OVER WHAT MANY TERMED "INDIFFERENCE" ON THE PART OF THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION, THERE WAS A GENERAL MOOD OF HOPE FOR BETTER THINGS TO COME AT THIS CONGRESS. THE VENEZUELAN WILL BE MORE ACTIVE WITH THEIR MAN IN THE TOP POSITION. THE ARGENTINES NOW NEED ORIT AND ARE DISPLAYING AN UNPRECEDENTED DEGREE OF SOLIDARITY. THE ICFTU CAME FOOTING THE BILL FOR THE MAJOR EXPENSES OF THE CONGRESS AS PENANCE FOR THEIR FAILURE TO WOO THE LATINS AWAY FROM THE U.S. BOSOM AND HAVE BROUGHT DISIDENT CANADIANS, HOWEVER RELUCTANTLY, BACK WITH THEM. EVEN THE OFT OVERLOOKED MINI-AFFILIATES LEFT THE CONGRESS WITH THE ELATED SENSE THAT THEIR WEIGHT WAS FELT AND THEIR APPETITES APPEASED BY A POUND OF CAMACHO'S FLESH.

RETIRING GENERAL SECRETARY JULIO ETCHEVERRY CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE MOOD OF HOPE WITH A MOVING FAREWELL SPEECH,

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RECALLING THE PROBLEMS OF HIS THREE YEARS AS CARETAKER  
OF A CRIPPLED ORIT, REMINDING THE DELEGATES OF THE  
PRESENT THREATS TO HUMAN AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS WHICH  
STILL EXIST IN LATIN AMERICA AND PLEDGING HIS COOPERATION  
TO THE FUTURE ORIT AND CALLING FOR DEL PINO TO ACCEPT  
HIS ABRAZO AMID A LENGTHY STANDING OVATION.  
OF COURSE IT TAKES MORE THAN MOOD OR SUCH EMOTION FILLED  
MOMENTS TO REBUILD AN ORGANIZATION AND TO SUSTAIN AN  
EFFECTIVE EFFORT ONCE THIS IS DONE. IT WILL TAKE  
CONSIDERABLE ABILITY, ENERGY AND TACT ON THE PART OF THE  
NEW GENERAL SECRETARY AND OTHER PRINCIPLE OFFICERS. IT  
WILL ALSO TAKE CONSIDERABLY MORE MONEY. DUES INCOME  
WHILE SURE TO BE INCREASED WILL BE INSUFFICIENT TO REGAIN  
THE GROUND WHICH ORIT HAS LOST. WITH THIS PROBLEM IN  
MIND WE SUBMIT THAT THE RESOLUTION PERMITTING ORIT TO  
PARTICIPATE AS DO THE ITS'S IN THE AID/AIFLD PROGRAM JUST  
MIGHT BE THE MOST SINGLY SIGNIFICANT PIECE OF ACTION  
TAKEN BY THE CONGRESS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. HAYNE.  
UNQUOTE THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, MX, ILO, ORIT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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